

DIAMOND

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Student teachers move into the 90s

by Alisa Siebinga

Ah, remember the old days when all the degree you needed was the ability to read, write, and maybe do a little adding and subtracting. Well, wake up from the dream because the teacher education program has changed once again.

The major change comes in the length of time required for teachers to gain certification. As of September of 1990, all teachers applying for certification in the state of Iowa have to complete twelve weeks of student teaching.

Student teaching will still take place in the last semester of the student's senior year, but the required course work will be deleted. The student teacher will teach for seven weeks and come back for two weeks to attend a education seminar, comprised of the student teaching experiences, observations, and needs. Following spring break, the teacher will go out and teach for another five weeks.

Most of the required course work has stayed the same, but the Introduction to Education course has been modified to fit the freshmen level. A course in curriculum and instruction has been added and all education majors are required to take a course in Special Ed. At the present time, all of the course changes have been implemented.

Being accepted into the Teacher

Education Program has also become harder. The cumulative GPA needed to graduate from the program is now 2.50, compared to the GPA for general graduation which is 2.0. According to Dr. VanderArk, the "screening is more selective to get in the program and the evaluation of progress while in the program will tighten up."

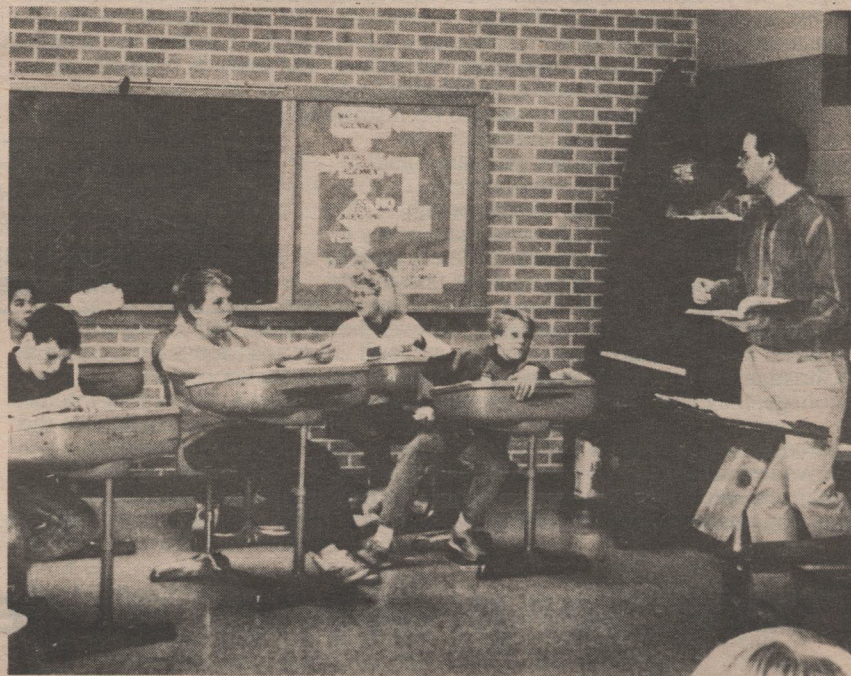
The changes have been made for two reasons. First, it is required by the state of Iowa that all teachers comply with the twelve weeks of student teaching to gain certification. Second, the more student teaching a prospective teacher gets, the better their preparation.

According to Dr. VanderArk, "There are new requirements all over North America and even if the state hadn't imposed the changes, Dordt would still implement some of them."

Dr. VanderArk also sees the possibility of Dordt developing a five year optional program so that when and if the state implements such a requirement Dordt will be ready.

Brenda Van Hal, a secondary ed English major, said this in response to the possibility of a five year program: "Teaching is an important job—we are shaping the lives of tomorrow's leaders. Yes, I think a five year program would be a positive move."

She is not the only one who feels that the move is good for Dordt. Jennifer Van Weelden echoes the



Senior Dale Fopma practice teaches at Sioux Center Christian School. Fopma is a secondary education math major. Fopma's junior high math students pay close attention while sitting in a non-traditional seating arrangement. (Photo by Jeff De Boer)

feeling of most education majors, "I feel that the move is positive because the more practice you get, the better a teacher you become. I especially like the idea of a two week seminar in between the two teaching experiences because for some people, the experience will not be a pleasant one and if he or she can share it and learn

from it, it may become positive."

The changes made to this year's program are by no means the end of the changes in Dordt's teacher education department. Dr. VanderArk says, "The process of preparing to enter a profession is always undergoing change whatever that profession is."



Wal-Mart representative Gordon Rasmussen presents a check for \$1285 to Marty Vander Plaats and other representatives of Putting Love Into Action. Wal-Mart's contribution will help pay for PLIA trip expenses (Photo by Lavonne Bolkema)

Olympiad I kicks off homecoming

by Patty De Nooy

Homecoming 1990 begins Sunday, February 18, and will include many events in addition to the annual basketball games.

This year's festivities include Dordt Olympiad I, a week-long competition between the faculty, staff, alumni, and students of Dordt College. The students will divide into freshmen/sophomore and junior/senior teams.

Following is a list of the scheduled activities:

Sunday-Homecoming kicks off with Covenant, a Christian music group, appearing in the chapel at 8:45.

Monday-A single elimination coed volleyball tournament begins in the gym at 7:30.

Tuesday-Men's and women's 3-on-3 basketball tournaments begin at 7:30 in the gym.

Wednesday-A Quiz Bowl begins at 8:00 in the chapel.

Thursday-A snow football tournament will also begin on Thursday and continue Friday afternoon and/or Saturday morning.

Friday-The Dordt Lady Defenders take on Concordia College in their final regular season game.

Saturday-A winter golf tournament at Sandy Hollow will take place, weather permitting. The highlight of the Olympiad will take place between the JV and Varsity basketball games. Included are relays, a tug-of-war, a basketball shoot-off, and a slam dunk contest. Points will be awarded for first through fourth place winners. At the end of the competition, the group with the most accumulated points will be awarded a trophy.

The annual talent extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday evening, with an ice cream social to follow.

De Young says the committee borrowed the Winter Game theme from last year's homecoming, but decided to add the Olympiad games as a way to get more people involved in homecoming. He says he hopes to see a lot of participation from the entire Dordt College community. If successful, the Olympiad will become an annual Homecoming event.

Administration unfairly leaves students off new task forces

In this issue of the *Diamond*, Jane Lamfers writes about a new task force set up by the Dordt faculty to address the concept of global education. This is a most important issue at Dordt. Our community is far too sheltered; we need a better understanding of who we are and what we can do to further the Kingdom of God. Broadening our scope to include faculty and students from other cultures is an important need to be filled at Dordt.

Other faculty task forces have also been set up on campus dealing with important issues, including changes in the curriculum, special academic programs, and enrichment of the student environment.

Each task force has one thing in common. No students have been asked to participate in any task force. Student input has been completely ignored by the administration in setting up these task forces.

Have we gone back to the Dordt of the 1960s when the board and administration acted however they wanted with no regard for student needs? If the powers-that-be at Dordt are serious about progressing as Christians into the next century, making changes in the very structure of the college, they will immediately appoint student members to the new task forces.

Arguments used to justify leaving students off such committees include the perception that students aren't interested in serving on such committees. However, students have played an important role in the library, academic policies, and film committees, to mention a few. There must be interest in serving on these committees because I have expressed interest in being on such

If the powers-that-be at Dordt are serious about progressing as Christians into the next century...they will immediately appoint students to the new task forces.

committees each of the four years I've been at Dordt, and others have filled the positions.

Another argument raised is that students aren't around during the summers when the committees make some important decisions. But many students do stay around Sioux Center—some live in the area and others work around here during the summer. And committees ought to do everything possible to make their decisions when students can be around. Justice requires that students be included in making decisions that affect them.

I am very disappointed in the administration for neglecting to include students on the new task forces. I hope the administration will respond, either giving good reason for their neglect, or appointing students to each of the task forces. In the meantime, *Diamond* reporters will be covering the activities of the various committees so students will be aware of the important decisions affecting them.

One post-script: We didn't have room in this issue for an article on the Staley lecture series. (We had too many letters, but please, keep them coming! We'll print more!) However, this year's lecture is too important to miss. Barbara Williams Skinner of Tom Skinner Ministries will speak next Tuesday at 7:30 in C-160. I strongly encourage students to turn out for this important campus event. If you have a conflict with a class, skip the class. This lecture is more important.

c. adams

Professor provokes student response

To the editor:

I'm one of those rare professors (there are only three at present) who have the incalculable privilege of teaching GEN 300. And this semester especially, I find I need to keep pinching myself to insure that I'm not off in some fantasyland where my idealism has finally supplanted my perceptions.

Recently, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at about 9:55 a.m., I find myself skipping back to my office, blood racing through my veins, many and various thoughts streaking through my mind at warp speed, and in general, coming down from the heady experience, so extraordinary in this culture of air-headed wimpitude, of having been in the presence of people who think!

Perhaps I ought not be so surprised at the abundance of intelligent questions and the reformationally serious wrestling with significant issues that has characterized GEN 300C lately. After all, this is Dordt College.

But then I think back over the last few years and the issues of the *Diamond* that I've read. Why is it that this richness of discussion I experience in GEN 300 fails to overflow the pages of the *Diamond*? Where I expect to see column after column of letters to the editor from students and faculty, I instead see advertisements for hairdressers, descriptive reporting of past events, and a whole page devoted to sports.

In the hopes of provoking such an avalanche of student response that you have no room for advertising or sports, I offer you the following provocative (but serious) questions:

1. If a Dordt education is for the purpose of equipping oneself for service in the Kingdom, why does there seem to be such a concern for getting a good job or getting into med school or law school on campus? Do we think that success in the Kingdom

requires that we first succeed in the Way of Death?

2. If being biblically reformed means rejecting the kind of secular dualism which characterizes the perverse notion of "full-time Christian service" (as opposed to part-time Christian service), why is there not a problem with church attendance on the part of many students who think nothing of skipping class? And why, on campus, do we occasionally hear reference to "sacred" music and "secular" music?

3. Speaking of music, if KDCR is truly Dordt College Radio, why don't students insist on more of a role in determining the programming? Why don't I ever hear Tracy Chapman, Bob Dylan, or student "Plumblines" over KDCR?

4. If we as a Christian community take Matthew 6 seriously and truly believe that seeking God's Kingdom and righteousness is what life is all about, is what ought to be at the foundation of all we do; then how come we haven't given the profit motive the lambasting that such a sin deserves? Or, how is it that there are many of us who still buy into the idolatrous view that money is always a good thing to have more of?

5. Now that the communist countries are moving to multi-party systems, why is there no outcry on the part of Christians that we do the same thing here in the U.S.? Or have we been duped into believing that those two pagan societies (the Republican and Democratic parties) genuinely offer freedom of choice when it comes time to choose our national leaders?

6. Is it true that there are many Christians who treat voting as a sacrament and have been lulled into political sleep by the system, believing that by casting a ballot they have discharged their prophetic responsibility as Christian citizens?

7. Is it true that if Robin Williams became a born-again Christian, went to Calvin seminary, and was called by a church in northwest Iowa that 95% of Dordt students (and 85% of everyone else) would flock to that church each Sunday because we have been enculturated by the TV to seek entertainment and have forgotten (if we ever knew) what genuine worship means?

8. Have we finally exorcised sexism from our campus, or are there still some women students who think that too high a grade point average endangers their sex lives? Or are there still men on campus who fantasize themselves as James Bond, Joe Montana, or Rambo-of-the-Prairie, and who find competent and thoughtful women threatening?

9. As reformed Christians we claim that Christ is Lord of all creation and redeemer of every area of life. Why then, do some of us believe in what is called "pure entertainment," an activity where we leave our critical Christian insights behind, rent the latest video, and tell ourselves that "it's Friday night, I've worked hard all week, and I don't want to have to think"?

10. If success is determined by hearing the Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," and if our self-worth is not something we have to strive for, but is ours because we bear the image of our God and have been called into being "for such a time as this," then why do we lust after such things as a high grade point average, the approval of our peer group, or any of the other ways in which the decadent surrounding culture defines success?

Shalom.

Charles Adams
Engineering Dep't

Discussion evolves

by Scott McClenny

Ever since Charles Darwin came up with the theory of natural selection, controversy over evolution has been heated in evangelical circles.

The debate over evolutionism that has split the evangelical world continues today. Christian colleges and high schools have been the setting for debates between those who believe in a literal six day creation, and those who prefer to speak in longer time periods.

The debate has not escaped Dordt College. Two lectures are scheduled on evolution. The speakers are David Livingstone and Kenneth Hermann. According to Dr. Russell Maatman, they were picked for their expertise on the impact of evolution on 19th Century evangelical thinking.

Maatman also says that the lectures are part of a conference on evolution designed to help students to become more aware about evolutionistic thinking.

According to Maatman, the lectures are not related, except by subject matter, to the lectures presented last year by Dr. Howard Van Till of Calvin College and Dr. Jitse van der Meer of Redeemer College.

As an added interest, there will be a lecture on the problems in Northern Ireland, presented by Professor Livingstone, a native of that country.

Professor Livingstone will speak on February 27 at 3:30 on "Evolution and the Evangelical." Professor Hermann will speak on "Discerning the Spirits" at 7:30. Livingstone's lecture on Northern Ireland will be at 7:30 on February 28. All lectures will occur in lecture hall C160.

THE FREE PRESS

What If...

It happened in American Literature class: my mind started to wander. To put it bluntly--I spaced out. But it wasn't my fault. Allow me to explain. We were having a class discussion over the idea that Dordt College is so-called "sheltered" from a lot of what other colleges have in abundance, and tolerate. Namely, excessive drug use, coed dorm floors, alcohol allowed on campus-- you know, the Big Three.

The question was, does frequent exposure to these types of situations make a person more prepared for the world? Or, in Dordt's case, does limited exposure to these situations put students at a disadvantage, while preparing for the world outside of Dordt? A tough question, I thought.

But, unfortunately, I never heard the class's final enlightened decision. I was day-dreaming. My mind was slowly leaving the classroom, the professor drifted out of focus, and suddenly I was at Dordt College, in the year 1995...I was thinking...what if...

"OK, now wheel it though those doors! Careful not to scrape the doorframe!"

The Bud man eased the two-wheeled cart carefully through the narrow entry. He steadied the load, a three foot high silver aluminum cylinder, with one hand, conscious of the eyes of the nearby men in suits scrutinizing his every move.

"That's it, just bring it on in. You have twelve more for us, right? I think that should be about enough for tonight," said one of the men in suits, seriously.

"I know it's none of my business," said the Bud man, when he had finished, "but Dordt College is the last place I ever thought I'd deliver to, Mr. President."

"Very true, young man, but the students here are complaining about the sheltered atmosphere they experience at Dordt. How are they supposed to become prepared for all the temptation out there unless they are exposed to it at college, they ask

me. So I'm exposing it all this weekend. By the way, I'm Dr. Vander Toolipstompburg and this is the student dean, Mr. Kleinbeite.

The Bud man nodded, handed a receipt to the president, and headed for his truck, eager to leave the campus.

Just as the beer truck pulled away, a big, yellow bus lumbered into the parking lot and stopped in front of the SUB. A woman stepped off and approached the two men.

"Are you President Vander Toolipstompburg? I've got the students you invited to your campus visit this weekend. But why you chose these jerks is beyond me. I've got every weed-head, free-basing, beer-guzzling nymphomaniac in the five-state area!"

"Alright, great. Why don't you tell them all to find their assigned dorm and get ready for the big rally in the SUB tonight. Tell them there'll be free beer. But they can't force any on my students. I want to see just how the Dordt kids react to all that real-world experience they've been missing because of Dordt sheltered society."

Vander Toolipstompburg frowned as they walked back into the SUB. "I'm just a little bit worried about how the students will deal with the coed floors for this weekend."

"Oh, stop worrying," said Kleinbeite. "In the end they'll all be much better prepared for life. And we'll send the kegs back full."

After I scolded myself for having such a radical, leftist day-dream, it occurred to me that, although Dordt students are far from perfect (and I speak for myself), at least the environment we live in promotes right living rather than tolerating wrong living all in the name of "freedom of choice," "preparing for the real world," and other cliched phrases that make me puke.

Then my mind snapped back to Huck Finn, and the thick textbook in front of me.

d mennega

Protest pro-choice?

by Christine Van Belle

Abortion. It's the hottest, most emotional issue to sweep the nation since the Civil Rights movement in the late 60s. In the small, reformed community of Dordt college, most of us are pro-life. If someone did voice a pro-choice opinion, no doubt they would be bombarded with hundreds of pro-life arguments.

So we're pro-life. We believe abortion is wrong. But how wrong is it? And how convinced are we? Is abortion in fact murder?

I say yes. Abortion is killing a child and most of you would agree. Thus we have a Pro-life Awareness Week. We cart off 50 kids to picket the Sioux Falls abortion clinic. We vote for Pro-life politicians. We write our congressmen. We create homes for women with unwanted pregnancies. But is this enough? Is this enough when 60 babies every 20 minutes are being aborted--murdered?

The Germans are often asked, "Why didn't someone--anyone--take a stand against Hitler?" Some claim ignorance, others fear. But here in the United States, every American is fully aware of the genocide that is taking place. We know that inside of the building we are parading in front of with our signs, hundreds of human lives are being snuffed out.

Do we really believe abortion is murder? Do I really believe that the young woman with the large tummy waddling into the clinic is going to kill her child? If I did, wouldn't I try to stop her? If someone was stabbing a person in the parking lot, wouldn't we try to help the victim?

The Nazis claimed the Jews were dogs, less than human. When the horrified world learned of the Final Solution, countries around the globe

united in saying "Never Again!" But in 1990 with a new genocide to fight, the oaths of "Never Again!" seems to fade off in the distance.

Gandhi successfully gained the independence of India through passive resistance. Martin Luther King led the oppressed American blacks to freedom with civil disobedience. If we are truly convinced that abortion is in fact murder, then it is our duty to disobey the laws of this nation concerning abortion. The Bible commands us to obey the authority God places over us. However, we subscribe to God's law first. When our nation legalizes murder, we are Christians first. Not Americans.

Do I suggest we sit in abortion clinics and block doorways? Yes. But, we must not use anger and violence to fight this atrocity. I believe passive resistance and civil disobedience are the Christ-like way to deal with abortion. History tells us it works. The future tells us it must work.

The Free Press was originally founded by two Dordt students in 1968. One of them, now Dr. James C. Schaap, is an English professor at Dordt College. Dirk Schouten and Dan Mennega revived The Free Press in 1989, to continue to give students the opportunity to openly express views on various topics which affect students and faculty alike. The coordinators, Schouten and Mennega, are leaving the column open for any student or faculty member who wishes to contribute to its success. Please send your opinions, suggestion, and reactions to The Free Press
DC 595

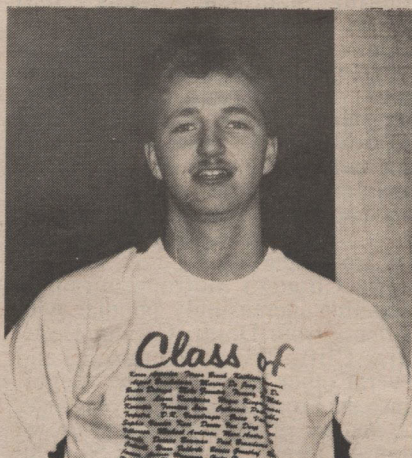
Students say...

by Dan Mennega and Jeff De Boer

Do Americans know enough geography?



Lisa Van Denend
Freshman--U.S.
"Compared to the Americans, Canadians know more."



Hans Folkerts
Sophomore--Canadian
"From what I've seen and heard, Americans know little."



Todd Bartels
Junior--U.S.
"It seems like nobody knows where anything is. Dordt should offer Canadian History 101."

Student challenges Calvin seminary ad

To the editor:

An advertisement for Calvin Seminary in the last *Diamond* caught my eye. It said, "If you think you hear God calling..." and then goes on to describe the programs at the seminary. Is this not a rather limited and somewhat dualistic view of God's calling? Does not God also call plumbers, garbage collectors, and farmers? I believe He does.

The ad also said, "Keeping the Heritage...Proclaiming the Kingdom." If "keeping the heritage" means "proclaiming the Kingdom" I heartily agree with the statement. If, on the other hand, it refers to our Dutch heritage, I must disagree strongly. That strikes me as the Christ of culture. Granted, there are some valuable traditions in our background. But, how applicable are they to people of different backgrounds? We need to proclaim Christ's culture, and forgive my audacity, but Christ is not Dutch or Christian Reformed. Christ is international and interdenominational. Let's "proclaim the Kingdom" but let's watch ourselves that we do not proclaim our heritage.

Sam Gesch

Breaking past Dordt's frontiers

Faith and learning in Washington, D.C.

by Sandra De Jong

Bright lights, big city--that's exactly what the American Studies Program (ASP) in Washington, D.C., held for two Dordt students, Chuck Adams and Karla Kamp, last semester.

ASP, sponsored by the Christian College Coalition, is a program open to students of any major--not just political science. Forty-two students from Christian colleges around the U.S. and Canada spend a semester working as an intern, and attending seminars on political issues. The main goal of ASP is to teach and challenge students to integrate their faith and work and to think Christianly.

Chuck Adams, a senior English major and prospective law student, spent the semester working on juvenile and neglect cases with Richard Landis, a private practice attorney. One of his duties was to put together a newsletter for lawyers in the family division of the court. Adams says this was a good experience to develop his writing skills.

Another added feature in Adams's internship was helping out with his employer's campaign for city council. This experience allowed him to become better acquainted with people like Jesse Jackson and Marion Barry.

Kamp, a senior English and history major, worked for Dordt graduate Ruth Harthoorn, who also works as a public defender in juvenile and neglect cases. Kamp says she basically followed Harthoorn in her footsteps every day. Her duties included interviewing clients, parents, social workers, and probation officers, investigating crime scenes, visiting client's homes, writing letters to clients, picking up reports, and sitting in on interviews between clients and probation officers.

Kamp explains that most of Harthoorn's clients are 16 to 17 year-old kids caught dealing drugs. Some clients, however, are children who had been neglected or sexually abused by their parents. She also represents parents who have been accused of neglecting their children.

Kamp says her internship experience really taught her to see all people as image bearers of God. "I was able to see beyond the surface of a drug dealer," says Kamp. "The kids have many of the same needs, wants, and struggles we all have."

Adams and Kamp lived in a apartment building about eight blocks from the Capitol. The neighborhood used to be a black ghetto, but a lot of whites have recently moved in the area, creating a push-pull situation--the Yuppies came in and rent went up, forcing poorer blacks to move out.

Adams says the program puts

students in a live-in situation with people they don't know from different cultural and religious backgrounds. "You get to know students extremely well," says Adams. "You often sit up late at night discussing different issues, both religious and political."

Kamp appreciated the sense of community at ASP. "You feel so close to the students and the professors," she says. "The professors are excited about what they teach and they really care about the students and the issues facing society today."

Besides their internships, Adams and Kamp attended classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. Units were divided into four sections based on two central themes: the War on Drugs and Soviet/American Relations. Each section concluded with an exam and group presentations or papers.

Wednesdays were group Bible discussions on subjects like idolatry, justice, and shalom and how these issues applied to the units they were studying. Kamp says, "Every issue we studied was evaluated from a biblical perspective. We were always going back to the Bible and searching for biblical norms."

Adams says one of the highlights of the units was working directly in the community and exploring the impact that the War on Drugs had in the neighborhood. Group projects were compiled by several students and presented to the D.C. city council. The report has been sent to the nation's Drug Czar, William Bennett.

A key feature to the program was hearing guest speakers. Adams and Kamp were able to hear presentations at the White House, Pentagon, Center for Defense Information--and even heard a speaker from the Soviet Embassy.

Both Kamp and Adams believe ASP is an excellent program and hope other students will go off campus and really struggle to integrate their faith with their work. Says Adams, "Everyone should consider going, not only political science majors, but people who are interested in mixing their faith and work and being in a Christian society."

Adams hopes that Dordt will become more active in the Christian College Coalition in the future because there are a lot of exciting things going on. For example, the Coalition is coordinating a program in the Soviet Union. The Soviet government actually asked for some Christian faculty to teach students about Christianity at the University of Moscow. "It's exciting," says Adams. "It's allowing faculty the chance to teach in a world where Christianity has not been heard."



Chicago Metro: Accepting the challenge Chicago broadens students' horizons

by Jean Zondervan

Waiting at 7 a.m. in the dark, underground subway stop for the train to come, I glanced at the man standing near me--a businessman in black patent leather shoes, matching briefcase, and a trenchcoat with the collar pulled up against the chilly November air. A heavyset black woman in snow boots and a bulky, gray wool coat leaned on the cement support of the opposite side as the man.

As I thought how different I was from either of these people, I suddenly felt out of place. They belonged in this windy city; I didn't. I was just a naive Dordt student escaping the Northwest Iowa cornfields. Yet how quickly I had adapted to their lifestyle: the mad pace, the crowds of people, the buses and subways, and the honking, maniacal Chicago taxi drivers.

Other Chicago Metro participants attest to these mixed feelings. How quickly we changed our lifestyle. Beginning with the first hectic week of orientation, we were plunged into seminars, interviews, and internship decisions, all the while getting acquainted with other students on the program and attempting to find our way around the city.

The Chicago Metro program is becoming increasingly popular with students from Dordt, Calvin, Hope, Briar Cliff, Trinity Christian, and several other participating colleges. Since the program began 14 years ago, the number of participants has grown from the teens to as large as 50 to 60 students.

Students on the program choose an internship and work Monday through Thursday each week. Friday brings seminar classes on Fine Arts, Values, or Metropolitan Study. Students choose two of these three seminars to participate in.

The Fine Arts seminar, taught by the director, Donna Spaan, is based on

the attendance and discussion of several Chicago arts events. Last semester we enjoyed several plays and art galleries, two modern dance companies, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and a travelling Broadway production of the musical "CATS."

The Metropolitan Seminar is taught by Tim Larkin, a Baptist minister in Uptown Chicago. This seminar uses the city as its classroom, visiting various neighborhoods and studying its people, politics, and problems.

George Beukema, minister at an inner city church, teaches the values seminar. The course delves into our value system and displays its effects on our career, family, and lifestyle choices.

Internship opportunities are available for students of nearly every major, from business and communications, to English, theater arts, and education.

Dave Goslinga, Brent Van Zylveld, Dave Tilstra, Lois Pastine, Gerald Dekker, Rob Louters, and I participated in the program from Dordt this last semester. Six Dordt students are currently in Chicago.

Scenes from Chicago will remain engrained in my memory: sitting on the upper deck at Wrigley field watching the Cubs play at dusk, with the city lighting up in the background; each morning walking past "Bill," the homeless man who slept in the doorway of the cafe next to our apartment building; and shoving myself into a subway car crammed full of people during rush hour.

Now as I walk to class in the morning, I feel far away from rush hour and subways, yet it's easy to smile at the familiar sidewalks and faces at Dordt. The greatest benefit gained from a program such as Chicago Metro is not only an appreciation of a culture so new and vastly different, but also a better understanding of the background we call our own.

Dordt programs offer learning in different locales

by Jane Lamfers

Dordt's off-campus programs envelop a variety of interests. Students of any major can develop their foreign language skills, study the environment, or learn how to cope with city life.

For those students interested in a foreign language, many options are available. Programs through Dordt include the German Overseas Program, the Netherlands Studies Program, the Latin American Studies Program, Semester in Spain, and the Summer Study Program in Mexico.

The German Overseas Program is a semester program located in Germany. The Dordt program is in conjunction with the Loethe Institute. This program is available to students of any major. The emphasis of the program is solely on language learning as the key to the culture. Many of the courses emphasize grammar, writing, or speaking, so the participant must make a serious commitment to learn the language. One interesting factor of this program is that the participant has the opportunity to get as involved with the culture as he sees fit. One such participant is sophomore Paul Dalen.

The Netherlands Studies Program is a spring semester program, located in Amsterdam. Several field trips to other places are also taken during the semester. One of the most valuable benefits of this program is the hands-on cultural experience students gain by touring museums and factories and studying firsthand some of the architectural styles.

Students are advised to take some Dutch before going because the more they know, the easier it is to practice the language in the country. Students

of Dutch descent have the opportunity to connect with their ethnic ties and better understand their family history.

Dr. Struyk and Dr. Boot are involved in the Netherlands Studies Program. Dr. Struyk left on Friday, February 9, to set things up for this year's program. Dr. Boot will leave during spring break to teach two courses: Intermediate Dutch and Dutch Literature.

Dr. Boot says, "It's an opportunity to test oneself to see how people on the other side of the globe live. We have the command to love our neighbor. We do this cross-culturally too."

Dan Boonstra, Ron Van Baale, and Heidi Siebring are currently on the program. Students that have previously gone on the program include Tammy Van Dyke, Kevin Wolters, Tracey Boonstra, Corrie Reyneveld, Melissa Huijbregtse, Gordon Vander Bergt, and Case Verburg.

Students interested in Spanish have a variety of programs to choose from.

One of these programs is the Latin American Studies Program (LASP), set in Costa Rica. Ed Visser, a student who took part in the program last semester says, "Since I was with people and talked to them I could feel the situation, not just read about it. It's different when you hear personal testimony from someone who had their friend killed or you see where and how the people live and what they eat."

The LASP program has several valuable purposes. For practical purposes, students have the opportunity to learn Spanish by living in the country, and they can experience the culture firsthand.

However, the emphasis of the program is that students see and understand the problems in Central America and begin to develop a sense of how they can personally be involved in solving these problems.

This semester John Holwerda, Brenda Van Wyhe, and Ryan Vander Lugt are on the program. Students who have previously gone on the program include Dave Van Heemst, Cal Struyk, Helen Feenstra, Lisa Van Dyk, and Ed Visser.

The Summer Study Program in Durango is a valuable program for the student interested in a foreign cross-cultural experience. And it involves little time and money.

The three-week-long program is held in late June or early August so students have the opportunity to work during most of the summer. Barb Van Gorp says of her summer experience, "I enjoyed learning about the culture because it made me more thankful for what I have because I live in the United States. The program also helped me understand that I should learn Spanish not just to learn a foreign language, but also to help others."

Students that have previously gone on the program include Cynthia Dykstra, Sheri Feenstra, Brenda Van Wyhe, Adri Ruisch, Jane Lamfers, Darlene Vis, and Jerry and Lavonne Boer.

The Semester in Spain program provides another opportunity for students to learn Spanish and to experience living in the culture. However, this program offers the study of Spanish with a European flair. Participants of this program are required to take many literature courses similar to those found in

American universities.

Dr. Apol encourages students to consider another program that is not offered through Dordt. Summer Training Session in Missions (STS) is a summer-long program that allows students to sense the urgency and flavor of mission work. By spending time with pastors and church workers, the participant can determine if he or she is cut out for mission work. Participants also spend time studying the Spanish language and Spanish history.

Students who have previously gone on the program include Sally Jo Alferink, Lisa Van Dyk, and Jane Lamfers.

For those students leery of a foreign cross-cultural experience, Dordt offers programs that introduce students to city life.

For those students interested in environmental studies, Dordt offers the summer AuSable Institute of Environmental Studies program. This program focuses on stewardship of environmental studies.

Courses that are not normally offered on home campuses are offered through this program. Participants have the opportunity to interact with other students from around the country.

The institute is located in the Northwest region of Michigan. Students have the option of spending 3 to 5 weeks or the entire summer on this program. Reverend Hodgson and Dr. Vander Zee have been teaching at the institute since 1981.

Students that have recently been on the program include Doug Gesink, Audra Bleyenbergh, Linda Sjaardema, Beth Brower, David Vander Stelt, and Sue Dokter.

Dordt reaches to the land down under

by Karla Kamp

One of Dordt's priorities is communicating with other Christian communities--sharing information and working on special studies. And for three weeks we will see such communication taking place on campus.

Geoff Wilson is from Melbourne, Australia, where he is an administrator and 11th and 12th grade teacher in Mt. Evelyn Christian School. He's here at Dordt on a special task--to become acquainted with Dordt in order to recruit students from 50 Christian schools in Australia.

"The purpose of my visit," says Wilson, "is to familiarize and orient myself with Dordt College--the faculty, administrators, and students and to find out as much as I can about Dordt."

Wilson explains that in Australia there are no Christian liberal arts colleges, and as a result, he and many students are interested in what Dordt has to offer.

On behalf of Dordt, Wilson will spend two weeks out of the year visiting parent-controlled schools in Australia, telling students and parents about Dordt. His first visit will be in May, so it is unlikely that Australian students will attend Dordt in the 1990-91 school year.

Dordt contacted educators in Australia like Wilson through Dr.

John Van Dyk and Dr. J.B. Hulst. In the summer of 1988, on a general tour of Asia and the Pacific Rim, Van Dyk was able to visit Australia and meet contacts he had through his research.

"This opened up other contacts," says Van Dyk. "And I was able to visit schools, staff members, and take part in teaching."

On his trip, Van Dyk says he realized the potential for Dordt to have connection with Australian Christian schools because they had no other higher levels of Christian education. As a result, he encouraged Dr. Hulst to travel to Australia as the official representative of Dordt's administration.

"It was Dr. Hulst's visit," says Wilson, "that really got things moving."

"Dordt College is also interested in being in touch with Australia in the education scene," stresses Van Dyk. "Australia is a growing and an alive education community that we ought to be in contact with."

Wilson says there are exciting things going on in the parent-controlled schools. "There is a keenness to reform our work with education and understand what it means to teach from a Christian perspective--to teach Christianly."

Presently, Australian Christian schools are working hard to develop and integrate a wholistic curriculum--

to get rid of strict subject divisions.

Van Dyk emphasizes that some of the Australian schools are using innovative teaching strategies. "The classroom is a real community," he says. "You can see the body of Christ come to expression--a beautiful thing to see."

The exchange is expected to go both ways. Wilson hopes there will be increased interaction between Dordt and the schools in Australia. He encourages Dordt students to go to Australia and teach for a few years.

Wilson says he is impressed by Dordt. "I've been made to feel welcome by staff and students," he says. But he especially emphasizes that it's a blessing to come to a Christian college.

"You have to realize," says Wilson, "that what's here is a gift of the Lord. I challenge you to realize that what you have is not common--and a responsibility comes with that. You must share and show what can be done to reach out to other Christian communities."

Wilson says he was really introduced to American culture at the Saturday night basketball game against Briar Cliff. "It was an exciting and intense game," he says. And then he came outside and saw the snow. "It was awesome!"--or as they say in Australia, "It was ace!"

Diamond

The Diamond is published by the students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond it. Letters, comments or opinions are very welcome. Contributions to the Diamond should be signed and received by the Monday before publication.

Address contributions to:

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The Diamond reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of any contribution.

Editor in Chief: Chuck Adams
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Features Editor: Dan Mennega
Sports Editor: Steve Hoogland
Photo Editor: Jeff De Boer
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Business Manager: Jeff Kopaska
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Shawna Sieperda

Photographer: Angela Eriksen
Typist: Dawn Nykamp
Advisor: Loma Van Gilst

Love and politics: the Lady Jane Epic

by Michael Goedhart

Throughout the history of cinema, the anachronistic or the conspicuous have been the substance of which the most memorable screen characters are made. If you've got something different in you that sets you off from your surroundings, in film, you're a hero instantly. Lady Jane Grey is the epitome of the rule.

Jane is a well-educated young girl of fifteen who seems oblivious to custom; she reads the *Phaedo* in Greek, and challenges her friend the priest on transubstantiation. She wears men's riding clothes when her dress won't suit the occasion, playfully dons leather boots at the table, and smashes crystal like a true Greek (maybe she's read too much Plato). Never mind that she's living in the sixteenth century, a time notorious for putting women "in their place."

Jane's surroundings are filled with the trinkets of the old religion of England, Roman Catholicism, a cache of nostalgia stolen from monasteries,

and a visual reminder of what most people do not want England to return to. When Jane's arranged marriage to King Edward VI falls through--she doesn't want to marry him, and he's unfortunately dying--a conspiring John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, arranges for her to marry one of his sons, in order that the country might be assured of a Protestant king.

On his deathbed, Edward bequeaths the throne to Jane, who was his closest friend. Unfortunately, the throne rightfully belongs to Mary (Jane Lapotaire), who is understandable upset at the news. Her factions defeat Jane's armies and there is grave punishment awaiting usurpers.

All of this might sound like the makings for a savory sword-and-sorcery adventure, but that story seems of little importance to the most wonderful part of the film: the love story of Jane and her husband, Guildford (Cary Elwes).

Jane, played with wonderful

buoyance and energy by Helena Bonham Carter, is initially appalled at marrying Guildford. And who can blame her? He is a boorish drunk who first hears of his impending marriage while lying in the lap of a whore. Through a gradual process, both of the young newlyweds warm to each other and finally fall in love.

The catalyst for the bonding of Jane and Guildford is Protestant doctrine. He wants it explained, and her passion for the subject thrills him. Together, they discover a love that transcends religious distinctions and overcomes preconceptions that he holds. Says Guildford at one point, "I wonder if you reformers are more concerned sometimes with how many sacraments there are than if those who take them live or die."

Ruling together, the two try to instigate massive social reform based on the idea that "the strong can still be good." Jane tries to understand her power and use it for good, but she is ultimately blind to the conspiracies

and the politics going on behind her.

With all the backstabbing and deceit in the film, two things save: faith in Jesus Christ and pure and perfect love. Jane and Guildford sit naked before each other, physically and spiritually, and their uniting love assures them that they can transcend this mortal coil to where the "touching cannot touch them."

John Dudley (John Wood), imprisoned for being a traitor, looks at Guildford and confesses that he doesn't feel worthy of God's grace. Dudley can't even face his own son, let alone pray to God, to whom he knows he needs no priest to intercede.

The final comfort is a disturbing synthesis of Platonic dualism and Christian ideas (the often quoted "soul departs to the invisible world" line is from Plato's *Phaedo*), but the result is nonetheless a redemptive message of the power of faith and love, a lesson that needs to be heard, and also told. And this film tells it with beauty and style.

Losing Heart

To the editor:

When I came back from picketing the Sioux Falls abortion mill on February 8, I gave my friend of 13 years, Illis Loof of Ahamo, Aksarben, a call:

Jeff Voorhees: Hey, Illis! How are ya doing, man?

Illis Loof: Pretty good, dude! Surprised to be hearing from you! What ya up to? Stayin' out of trouble? You're not in jail are ya?

JV: Of course not! But I did picket the only abortion mill in South Dakota today! Forty-five of us from Dordt College went.

IL: Well, that's interesting.

JV: You don't sound too thrilled, Ill-- Aren't you pro-life? You're a Christian, aren't you?

IL: Of course I'm a committed Christian, but I think the abortion issue isn't just a black and white issue. What about the woman? What if a fourteen year old was raped? What would you do?

JV: Look, you're giving me a "worst case scenario." Those are not the cases that pro-lifers like myself are addressing. If necessary, we will address them, but those "hard cases" are only three percent of all abortions. We want to see abortion as a method of birth control be stopped. They make up 97 per cent of the abortions today.

IL: I hope you're not questioning my faith, Jeff! I hate it when people start judging me because I am not a militant, fundamentalist, pro-lifer. I don't like to classify myself. Hey, I come from an inter-denominational church, remember?

JV: Look man, I'm not saying you don't love the Lord, but I have a real problem when people can't see God's love for the unborn. It comes through so clearly! A friend of mine wrote me over semester break. She said her favorite passage of Scripture is Psalm 139. U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch likes Isaiah 49:15. How can you ignore Jeremiah 1:5?

IL: Well, I don't know. There are pro-choice churches in America too, ya know!

JV: Dude, almost all the mainline pro-abortion churches in 1988 switched in 1989. The Presbyterian Church USA, the American Baptist Church, and the Episcopal Church all switched. The rest of the pro-abortion churches greatly watered down their position as well. They include the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Church of Christ. Our counselor in Sioux Falls, Paul Dorr, said, "The church is coming alive today...to expose the darkness of abortion. There's a spiritual warfare being fought..." I only know of one strict pro-abortion church left, the Unitarian-Universalist Church, but they never believed in anything from the start.

IL: Okay, but I don't know how much I like the idea of Operation Rescue. Blocking entrances to clinics and getting arrested doesn't really appeal to me.

JV: I hear ya. I have weak knees too when it comes to that, but I don't think you really know what they stand for. Paul Dorr told us, "Operation Rescue calls the church to repentance. Some ministers don't like it because they don't think the church is guilty. But it is. The church should be there at the woman's greatest hour of need, but it's not." There is talk of Rev. Jerry Falwell and Cardinal John O'Connor sitting in on a rescue sometime soon. "If that happens," Paul told me, "the church will be coming out in droves."

IL: Yeah, that's all fine, but God told us to obey authority over us. Right?

JV: No doubt, man! But the church of all times has been involved in Scriptural obedience since its founding. In Acts 4:18-20, Peter and John refuse to obey the Sanhedrin. In Daniel 6:10-12, Daniel refuses to obey King Darius's order. In Daniel 3:14-18, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gods. The church is just continuing the command of King Solomon in Proverbs 24:11.

IL: No way, man. I think you've lost your head.

JV: No, Illis. You've lost your heart.

Jeffrey D. Voorhees

Dordt: love it or leave it

To the editor:

On this campus we seem to always have certain individuals who can't stop complaining about being here.

"There's nothing to do," "I hate the rules," and "Americans don't know anything about Canadians" are pathetically common comments.

Granted, it seems at times that Dordt has about as much culture as a turnip. But I challenge anyone who continually cries about how much they hate it here (many of whom keep coming back semester after semester) to visit other colleges. See if you can find a college that has as much of a Christian atmosphere, as many dedicated professors and administrators, and as much genuine concern for its students as Dordt has. You'd be hard pressed to find such a school.

My point is, if you hate it so much here, why don't you wipe your tears and ask yourself what you're doing here! It's not like somebody is twisting a knife in your back telling you to "Go To Dordt Or Else!" And to those who shout "Wake up, America!" I believe it's time you set the alarm clock and rise and shine yourself. If you despise this college so much, maybe it's time to hit the road and find yourself a "real" college. Any number of students, such as myself, who care about Dordt and like it here will be more than happy to help you pack your bags.

Tim Antonides

Editor's note: Although Mr.

Antonides's letter doesn't directly refer to Alisa Siebenga's letter to the editor of last issue, I have asked her to respond. Antonides indirectly referred to several of Siebenga's points, and she deserves the right to respond.

I genuinely care about Dordt and I chose this college for some of the exact reasons Antonides listed. I was not attacking Dordt. However, I was addressing how uneducated many American people are in respect to Canada.

Surprisingly enough, all of the negative responses have been that I should "go home," but no one could defend their ignorance.

Alisa Siebenga

To the editor:

I would like to comment on the editorial entitled "Canadian Speaks Out." I believe Alisa is quite accurate in her assessment of the geographical ignorance of my countrymen. They may not like to hear it, but many if not most North Americans have very poor geographical knowledge. We may be a superpower, but we still have a responsibility to know more than just our own country.

Sam Gesch

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Lady Defenders handle Westmar

by Steve Hoogland

Last week the Dordt College Lady Defenders picked up their second victory since January 5. They also suffered a loss to Mt. Marty Tuesday.

vs. Westmar

Dordt played host to the Westmar Lady Eagles last Wednesday. The Lady Eagles came into the game with only a 2-20 record.

In the early minutes, Westmar took the lead, but the Lady Defenders hung close. By the end of the first half, Dordt had a 30-24 lead.

"We were moving the ball well," says Coach Len Rhoda, "but the shots just weren't falling." The Lady Defenders made only 11 of 33 shots from the field in the first half.

In the second half, the Lady Defenders took control and outscored Westmar 40-17 in the second half and scored a 70-41 victory.

In the contest, Lisa Wubben scored 21 points. Suzanne De Vries scored 12 and Vonda Brands and Rhoda Gritters each had 10.

The Lady Defenders dominated every aspect of the game. They shot 42 percent for Westmar. Dordt also out-rebounded the Lady Eagles 31-18.

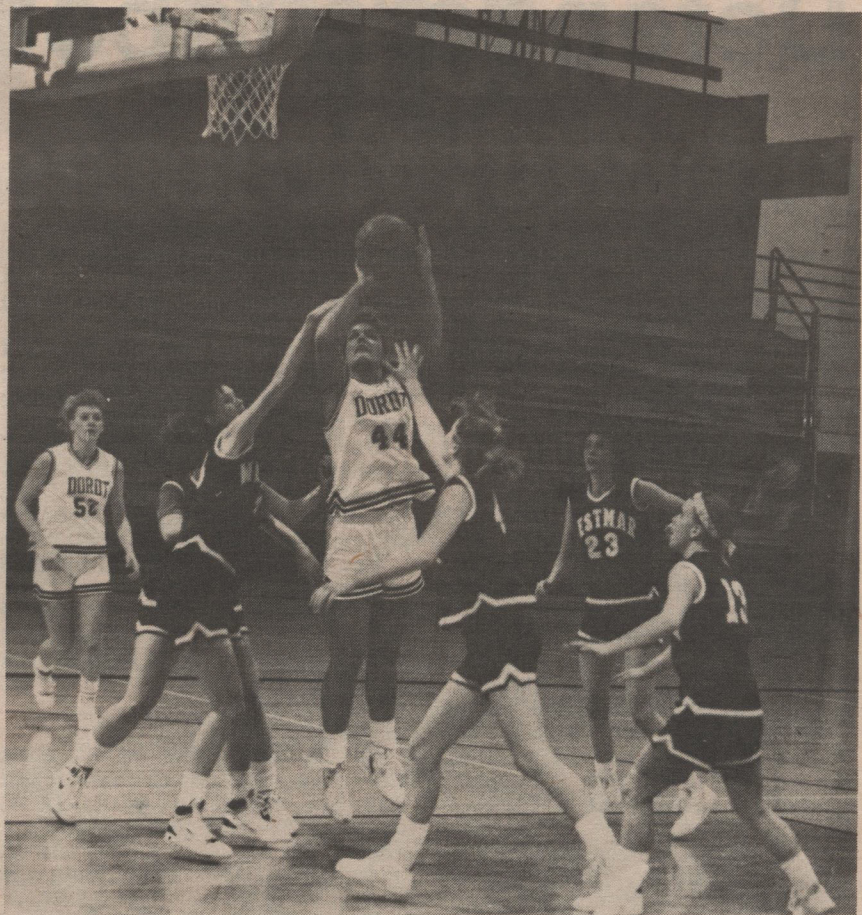
vs. Mt Marty

Last night the Lady Defenders travelled to Yankton, South Dakota, and lost to Mt. Marty 74-72. With 1:38 Dordt was down 74-64, but they scored the last eight points of the game.

Suzanne De Vries scored 17 points to lead the Lady Defenders. Jill Bousema had 16 and Vonda Brands and Janet Zylstra each had 15.

The loss dipped the Lady Defender's record to 12-8.

Saturday, they travel to Briar Cliff to face all-American Cheryl Dreckman and the rest of the Lady Chargers. Dordt is currently comfortably in fourth place in the District 15 playoff race. If they remain in fourth place they would host a first round playoff game.



Suzanne De Vries puts up a shot in the lane against Westmar. Dordt defeated the Lady Eagles 70-41. (photo by Jeff De Boer)

JV Team picks up victories

by Steve Hoogland

Even though many people see them play, the efforts of the Dordt College Junior Varsity often go unnoticed. However, this year's JV has generated a certain amount of attention.

After losing their first two contests to a community college from Platte, Nebraska, and Northeast Nebraska Tech from Norfolk, Neb, they reeled off ten consecutive victories. Their streak ended February 2, when the Norfolk team came to Dordt. Since then Dordt lost one more contest, a game against Briar Cliff last Saturday night. Their overall record is 12-4.

This year's team has 13 players, all freshmen. Only twelve have seen action this semester since Troy Kooima broke a bone in his hand. "The team has as much depth as I have had," says Coach Syne Altena. "We can just wear the other teams out."

Leading a balanced scoring attack is Galen Van Roekel with 15.1 points per game. Jeff Zylstra, Brian Sipma, and Craig Veurink all average around 11 points per contest. Altena says those numbers would all be higher, but with the depth of reserves, none of

the starters get a lot of minutes.

The biggest asset of the teams is their outstanding rebounding. Over the first 16 games, Dordt had been out rebounding their opponents by an average of 45-30 a game. All those rebounds, especially those on the offensive end, have resulted in a lot more shot attempts per game, translating into big numbers in the scoring margin. The team averages 88 points per game compared to only 75 for their opponents.

Altena says, "They are such good athletes I can usually play a man-to-man press the whole game. I don't like to play zone with these players."

Probably their biggest victories of the year came against Northwestern and Worthington Community College. Their only loss to a four year college has been to Briar Cliff.

If there is one weakness to the team, it is that they don't have a dominating scorer. "Some nights, I don't know where the points are going to come from," says Altena, "and that may hurt them down the road when they start playing varsity."

The ultimate role of the JV is to develop players for the varsity team.

Men's Basketball (11-11)

DORDT 82	Grandview 80
DORDT 114	Iowa Wesleyan 70
Westmar 71	DORDT 66
DORDT 93	DWU 89

SCHEDULE

at Northwestern, Sat. Feb. 17, 7:30
at Briar Cliff, Wed. Feb. 21 7:30
vs. Mt. Mercy, Sat. Feb. 24, 2:00

Women's Basketball(12-8)

Northwestern 90	DORDT 58
DORDT 71	Westmar 41
Mt. Marty 74	DORDT 72

SCHEDULE

at Briar Cliff, Sat. Feb 17, 2:00
vs. Concordia, Fri. Feb. 23, 7:30

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Defenders rebound against DWU

by Steve Hoogland

The Dordt Defenders saw their overall record remain around the .500 mark last week at 11-11 as they lost two conference games before bouncing back Tuesday. Their record in the conference fell to 5-3 with the losses to Westmar and Briar Cliff.

vs. Westmar

Dordt travelled to LeMars last Wednesday night to tangle with Dexter Rogers and Westmar.

The Eagles dominated the first 12 minutes of the game and led 26-13. The Defenders then rallied for the rest of the first half and seconds before halftime they tied the score at 33-33.

Dordt began the second half with a Jay Schelhaas 3-pointer and took what would be their only lead of the game at 36-33. The Defenders fell behind again a minute later. With Coach Vander Berg in the lockerroom ill for the last ten minutes, they were unable to get back into the lead and lost 71-66.

For Dordt, Joel Veenstra scored 23 points and Jay Schelhaas had 21. Westmar's Dexter Rogers had 26 to lead all scorers.

vs. Briar Cliff

Saturday night, the conference and district leaders Briar Cliff came to Sioux Center to take on the Defenders. Dordt had defeated the Chargers five consecutive times dating back to 1987, and Dordt badly needed the victory.

The first half remained close. Even when starting forward Joel Veenstra and center Dave Vaandrager both picked up their third fouls, less than 13 minutes into the first half, reserves Brian Driesen, Loren Greenfield and

Chad Ringler kept the Defenders close. Dordt lost their lead for good with 1:20 remaining in the first half and were down at the intermission 35-32.

A 9-2 spurt for the Chargers put Briar Cliff up by ten and Dordt got no closer than eight the rest of the game, and the Cliff won by an 88-73 score.

Dordt was led in scoring by Veenstra who scored 20 of his 24 points in the second half and Jay Schelhaas who scored all 11 of his points in the first half.

Vander Berg says the Defenders must shoot better if they hope to win. Both Westmar and Briar Cliff shot 55 percent while Dordt shot 42 percent at Westmar and 45 percent against Briar Cliff.

vs. DWU

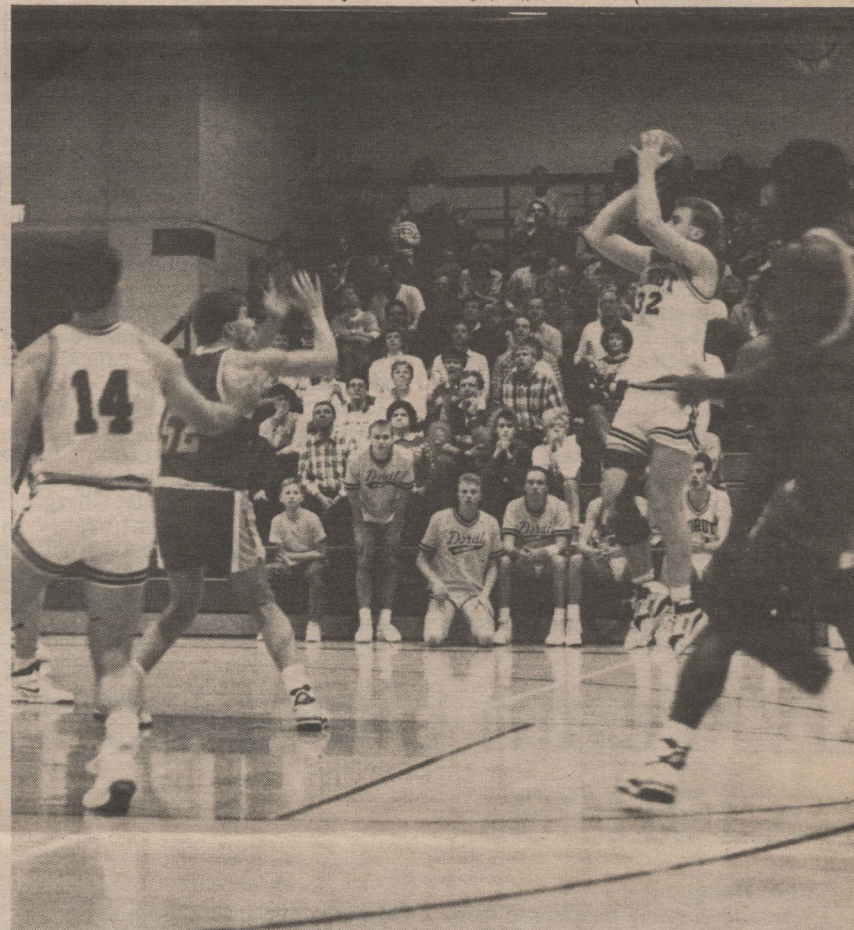
The Defenders came up with a big victory Tuesday night as they defeated Dakota Wesleyan University 93-89. Down 81-69 with nine minutes left. The Defenders took control, outscoring DWU 24-8 down the stretch.

Dordt was led by Jay Schelhaas and Joel Veenstra who each scored 22 points in the victory. Dave Vaandrager scored 21 while Derrick Altena had 13 and Gailen Veurink 12.

The Defenders held DWU freshman sensation Scott Morgan to 23 points.

For Dordt Jay Schelhaas leads the nation in free-throw shooting. Gailen Veurink is second in the conference in rebounding.

Dordt has a big game Saturday night in Northwestern. Dordt is currently in seventh place in the close District 15 race.



Brian Driesen goes up for a jumpshot in the final moments against Grandview. Dordt overcame a sixteen point deficit and won 82-80. (Photo by Jeff De Boer)

Dordt spirit lacking at basketball games?

by Steve Hoogland

Tuesday night I attended what was my second to the last men's basketball home game as a student. I imagine I'll probably see each of the remaining three games and a possible playoff game if Dordt gets a berth, but for the most part I've seen the best basketball Dordt has to offer. Out of all the things I will remember about Dordt, I'm sure basketball games and related activities will be high on my list.

There is a lot to remember about Dordt basketball in the past four years. Anyone who followed Dordt two years ago won't forget that basketball team led by Greg Van Soelen. Nor will anyone else who went to Kansas City and watched Dordt advance to the NAIA National quarterfinals. Dordt really made a strong statement about our college by winning the sportmanship award when many eyes could see us. A very impressive feat

for a school of only 1000 students and 350 miles away from Kansas City.

This years basketball team has a .500 record. I no longer hear the positive remarks I once heard about Dordt men's basketball. So what if the names Joel Venstra, Gailen Veurink, and Jay Schelhaas don't sound as impressive as Greg Van Soelen, Jerry Boer, and Kevin Gesink. Is the only reason most students go to games to see Dordt win?

In the past four years Dordt has compiled a 69-38 record. For you people who are into numbers, that is nearly twice as many wins as losses. Dordt has developed a strong program over the past six years. These players are working just as hard as the ones who went to Kansas City and many were part of the Kansas City team. This team does have a good amount of talent.

We should be proud to be part of the

basketball tradition here at Dordt.

Dordt fans are as supportive of their team as any Iowa NAIA school. We must continue to be supportive of the basketball team. To not go to a basketball game because "they'll lose anyway" is a poor attitude for a student to have. It is impressive for a basketball team which has a .500 record to play in front of a full gymnasium. That says a lot about a school. To win every game isn't the only objective.

Take Tuesday night as an example. Dordt entered the game with a 10-11 record. They played a DWU team which had a 17-7 record and an 8-0 record in their conference. What's more, they beat Dordt 100-88 two months ago in Mitchell. What we saw was the best game the Defenders played in the second semester. Dordt overcame a 12-point deficit in the last

nine minutes and won by four. It was Dordt's biggest victory of the year.

The sad part was that it was one of the smallest crowds in the past four years at Dordt. I realize Tuesday night wasn't a good night because Western played in Hull and Unity in Sioux Center, but even the student section was pretty empty. I hope it wasn't because the students thought "we'll just get beat anyway."

What I'm saying is Saturday night Dordt plays at Northwestern. They have a greater number of victories than the Defenders, and Dordt could really use the victory. Northwestern is a beatable team. They played well against Dordt, but they aren't a powerhouse. Let's fill our share of the seats in the Northwestern gym and cheer our Defenders. We can say a lot about Dordt spirit by how we treat a game like that. Let's show off that Dordt spirit and win.